

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, July 28, 1953.

The SPEAKER (Hon. Sir Robert Nicholls) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS.****HOUSING TRUST SECOND MORTGAGES.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I understand that some persons desiring to purchase Housing Trust homes have had to make arrangements for first and second mortgages, and as a result more than six months elapses from the time of occupancy until the agreement is finalized, during which time these people have been paying £2 5s. a week. Is the Premier aware that this practice has been in operation for some time, and that the £2 5s. is not being credited as purchase money but only considered as rent?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I am aware that the trust is assisting in the financing of house purchases by the provision of second mortgages in certain cases. That is well known, and, I believe, has the general approval of Parliament. Without those second mortgages many of the houses could not have been provided. As regards the other matter, I should not think the tenant is actually at a disadvantage, because even after his agreement has been finalized I should think his weekly payments would not be less than the £2 5s. he has been paying. While he is paying that rent he is occupying a house which the trust has had to provide and for which borrowed money has had to be secured. I will examine the position to see if there is any injustice, but offhand I should not think there has been.

**IRRIGATION PROJECT.**

Mr. MICHAEL—Under the heading "Private Irrigation Project" the following appeared in *The Advertiser* today:—

Plans for the establishment of a private irrigation project in S.A. totalling about 10,000 acres have begun with the purchase of about 1,750 acres of land near Mannum. Speaking from Mannum yesterday, Mr. J. H. L. Lloyd, an Englishman who has bought the land, said he planned to develop by irrigation another area of 8,000 to 10,000 acres on the Murray between Morgan and Waikerie.

It is said that because of the size of the project a large company will probably be formed. That article follows on a statement I heard over the air on Sunday, that a Mr. Lloyd, a Welshman, who had had 20 years' experience in Rhodesia, and was then in Perth, was coming to South Australia to start a project on 100,000 acres 150 miles from

Adelaide. Has the Minister of Lands any knowledge of this project, and whether the Lloyds mentioned are the same person, or in any way associated?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—About a month or six weeks ago a Mr. Lloyd approached me regarding a rather ambitious undertaking in the locality referred to, and after discussion he said he would go away and have a look at the proposition. I also told him that if he were then interested and would apply for the land to be transferred to him the application would be treated on its merits. He has since applied to have certain areas transferred to him, and this application is now under consideration. Whether there are two Lloyds, or only one, I cannot say.

**PORT PIRIE HOUSING PROGRAMME.**

Mr. DAVIS—Has the Premier a reply to my question of last week regarding the Housing Trust programme at Port Pirie and the employment of local labour?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have received the following report from the chairman of the Housing Trust:—

So far, the South Australian Housing Trust has completed over 300 houses at Port Pirie. The trust has building contracts with two builders at Port Pirie. Under these contracts 52 houses are under construction and the contracts provide for the construction of a further 21 houses. The production of houses under these existing contracts is about 400 houses a year. As it is expected that up to 80 houses will be required within a relatively short period to accommodate persons engaged in the proposed uranium plant, the trust has called for tenders for the erection of a further 40 semi-detached houses and is negotiating for the erection of a further 10 timber-frame houses. The purpose of the trust is to secure the services of additional builders at Port Pirie and so that provision for the houses for uranium plant employees will not interfere with the production of houses needed to meet the normal housing demands of Port Pirie. There is a strong housing demand at Port Pirie and the trust expects to place further contracts in due course.

**TRANSPORT POLICY.**

Mr. DUNKS—The following appeared in the *News Bulletin* No. 1 for July, 1953, of the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries:—

It is no exaggeration that the May meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council was the most important in the history of that body. Impressed and oppressed by the mounting problems of transport administration, State Transport Ministers and the Commonwealth Minister for Transport, Senator G. McLeay, with their advisers, met for the first time in an atmosphere dictated primarily by transport needs with Party politics a secondary

consideration . . . . The outcome of this meeting is of importance to Australia as it ended with the endorsement by all the parties that solution of transport difficulties did, in fact, lie in their treatment as an Australian problem. For their part, State Ministers conceded an over-riding interest by the Commonwealth in efficient transport, both from the economic and defence viewpoints, and their combined statement, issued at the end of the meeting, indicated at least some readiness by State Ministers to waive State rights and privileges in return for concerted action and Commonwealth assistance.

Can the Minister give any information on the matter and say what is the viewpoint of South Australia?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I dispute the fact that it was the first time the parties had met to discuss the matter from the point of view of State-wide necessities as against political issues. The result of the council's deliberation was that a survey would be made as to the general transport requirements of Australia, and what was the best means to meet those requirements. Incidentally, since then it has been said—I think it was in a banking review—that having regard to road and rail transport facilities per thousand of population Australia is well served. The only thing is to put them in their proper grade. South Australia has always held that air, road, sea, and rail should function in their proper spheres. South Australia of all the States is the least restrictive in road transport, and that is where the automotive people come in. In South Australia the ancillary vehicle is not controlled in any way. Whereas a trip from Brisbane to Adelaide by road sometimes costs the heavy haulier about £310 in transport fees, the contribution to South Australia is only about £10. I am afraid we have little to offer, and any solution will have to come from sources other than South Australia.

#### CADMIUM POISONING.

Mr. HUTCHENS—The following is an extract from this morning's *Advertiser* under the heading "Warning on Cadmium Poisoning from Food Containers":—

Numerous cases of cadmium poisoning from plated food containers have been reported, the Senior Medical Officer of the S.A. Department of Public Health (Dr. G. H. McQueen) says in an article in the latest issue of *Good Health*, the department's quarterly bulletin. Cadmium has been increasingly used in recent years as an ingredient of metal alloys and as an electroplating material, but it is a dangerous metal to use, both for the workmen who handle it and the general public who may be severely poisoned by it.

In view of the press warnings by the S.A. Public Health Department's medical officer that there had been numerous cases of cadmium poisoning from plated food containers in this State, will the Premier indicate what preventive steps his Government intends to take?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Obviously the Department of Public Health is already dealing with this matter, because it issued the statement referred to. I will obtain a report from the Minister of Health and inform the honourable member definitely what steps are being taken. Under the Food and Drugs Act there are regulation-making powers and I presume it would be by means of a regulation that the use of the containers would be controlled.

#### WINE GRAPE PLANTINGS.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Recently in a paper circulating in the river districts the Minister of Lands was quoted as saying that both the dried fruits and the wine industries had objected to a further expansion of irrigation areas. I know that the leaders of the dried fruits industry have objected to any expansion, but I have not heard of any occasion when the wine industry people have objected. Can the Minister tell me when the objection was raised, and by whom?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The honourable member indicated that he would ask the question and I have obtained a fair amount of detail. I have all the correspondence dealing with the matter, which I shall be pleased for the honourable member to see. I have also prepared a statement which I would like to read in fairness to the wine industry, because in the early days it was not so much opposed to additional plantings as it is today.

In 1946 qualified support was given by the wine industry to the planting of a maximum of 5,000 acres of wine grapes for war service land settlement in the various States. The qualifications included a renewal of the Wine Bounty Act, a continuation of imperial preference and the then rate of exchange, and also that action be taken to regulate plantings within the maximum area conditionally recommended by the committee. In 1949, in a letter to the Prime Minister, the Federal Viticultural Council expressed concern about the position which had developed relative to the overseas' wine trade, and expressed fears concerning the whole industry with particular reference to the projected and established new plantings which had been recommended in January, 1946, and, when the additional allocation of 3,500 acres was

made in 1949, vines for wine production were excluded. In 1952, on the recommendation of the Australian Agricultural Council, a further 2,600 acres of wine grapes were allocated for war service settlement. Advice of this further allocation was followed by representations from the Wine Board, the Federal Viticultural Council and the Grapegrowers' Council, to the Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, asking that the plantings under this allocation be deferred until the impact of the plantings already authorized could be more accurately assessed.

#### GALVANIZED IRON SUPPLIES.

Mr. PEARSON—I presume the Premier has seen in the press reports relating to the acute shortage in this State of Australian galvanized iron. The press indicates a shortage, and I am personally aware of a shortage of at any rate the popular sizes. I believe that steel also is in short supply, not, according to the press, because of a shortage of manufacturing capacity, but because huge consignments of Australian materials are in the eastern States awaiting shipment to South Australia. Has the Premier any information to give the House?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Last week the honourable member for Prospect asked a question on this matter and I promised a full report. I would like the press to correct the mis-statement I made on this matter last week when I said that possibly the problem was due to the fact that South Australian firms had not lodged orders. On investigation I find that the difficulty has been due not to a lack of such action but to the fact that for one reason or another many thousands of tons of all types of materials ordered are being held up in New South Wales awaiting delivery. In view of the importance of this topic it may be advisable to make the whole of the report I have available to the House and I ask the permission of the House to read it.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The report from the Director of Building Materials, Mr. Pollnitz is as follows:—

In compliance with the Honourable the Premier's verbal request, I set out hereunder a full statement regarding the Australian galvanized iron position.

1. Production increased from 90,000 tons per annum to 150,000 tons per annum (approximately 2,000 tons weekly at Newcastle and 1,000 tons weekly at Port Kembla) commencing in April, 1953. Most of the production is now in light gauges, that is, 20-gauge and thinner. The increased production is still inadequate to meet the Australian

demand, particularly for 26-gauge corrugated roofing iron. Demand from all States is strong. Victoria is the only State which has retained control over sales. The rumour that roofing iron is readily available in Sydney is wrong—orders are about six months behind.

2. Deliveries to South Australia during the six months ended June 30, 1953, were:—

	Corrugated. (Tons).	Plain. (Tons).
24-gauge . . . . .	1,120	898
26-gauge . . . . .	2,362	907
Other gauges . . . .	70	758
	3,552	2,563

Compared *pro rata* with last year, deliveries of plain galvanized iron were up 14.6 per cent and corrugated galvanized iron supplies were up 55 per cent. The total (6,115 tons) was 39 per cent higher *pro rata* than the 1952 total of 9,051 tons, which was the largest quantity received in any year since 1946.

3. Method of delivery during the first half of 1953: All the galvanized iron received was shipped from Newcastle or Port Kembla, except for 1,000 tons railed from Port Kembla to Sydney, and shipped from there at an additional cost of 34s. per ton. Railage of this 1,000 tons to Sydney was necessary because industrial troubles on the wharf at Port Kembla prevented its direct dispatch.

4. South Australia's quota has been maintained by the manufacturer at 11 per cent, the figure fixed by the Commonwealth Government when it controlled distribution between the States. For the production programme scheduled for the 13 weeks, July to September, 1953, South Australia's quota is 5,674 tons.

5. Shipping: Lack of adequate and regular shipping has been a serious problem, particularly during the last month. It is claimed that the shipping shortage has been greatly aggravated (if not caused) by:—

- (a) rolling strikes by waterside workers and shipping crews at Newcastle, Port Kembla and Sydney; and
- (b) preference given at Port Kembla to overseas ships.

The shipping shortage has been worse at Port Kembla than at Newcastle. Steel products awaiting shipment to Adelaide at Port Kembla and Newcastle amounted to the following tonnages at July 17:—

Port Kembla: 9,000 tons excluding 10,000 tons loaded or being loaded on the *Aeon* and *Iron Knob*. Both of these ships have been delayed because of industrial trouble on the wharf, but latest information is that the *Aeon* will leave on July 25-26, and the *Iron Knob* soon after when its loading is completed. July 27, 1953—*Aeon* sailed. *Iron Knob* loaded but crew short.

Newcastle: 12,000 tons excluding 5,000 tons on the *Iron Warrior*. The *Iron Warrior* has been held up for about three weeks with crew troubles. The latest information is that it is expected to sail at 8 p.m. today, July 24. *Iron Warrior* did not sail. When these three ships sail, there will be about 25,000 tons of steel products at the two ports awaiting shipment to Adelaide.

6. South Australian orders for galvanized iron unfulfilled amount to 13,000 tons, including 6,800 tons of 26-gauge corrugated roofing iron which is the type in greatest demand and shortest supply. Orders have risen steeply since controls were removed.

7. Merchants' stocks of imported galvanized iron amount to only 30 tons, 20 tons of which is plain galvanized iron. An order for 100 tons of roofing iron has already been placed in Britain, and it is stated that two or three other firms are in the process of placing orders.

8. Conclusions:—

(a) Notwithstanding the increased production, supply of roofing iron is still inadequate to meet the demand, and is likely to remain so for many months to come.

(b) A substantial improvement in the shipping position will be necessary if this State is to receive its full share of the increased production.

Some merchants have expressed to me the opinion that, viewing the position regarding supplies of all steel products, this State would benefit from a continuation of the personal contacts which we previously established in periodical visits to Newcastle and Port Kembla.

In view of the wishes of South Australian merchants I will see that the Director of Building Materials again proceeds to Newcastle to see whether he can straighten out some of the difficulties. Much further information is available to honourable members with regard to the many thousands of tons of materials which are on order by South Australian merchants but which are held up in Newcastle mainly because of shipping problems.

Mr. JENNINGS—Did the Premier see a statement in yesterday's *Advertiser* that the black-marketing of galvanized iron in South Australia is believed to be rife and that as a result there is a shortage? What steps does he intend to take to ensure that people who urgently need galvanized iron for home building are not deprived of it by those who can afford black-market prices?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The honourable member will remember that, with the complete approval of the Opposition, building restrictions were lifted. At the time I said that many advantages would result, but also some disadvantages. We are still short of cement and galvanized iron. There is now no control over the distribution of iron, but I will instruct the Prices Branch to check up and wherever possible see that proper prices are being paid. Blackmarketing is only possible with the collusion of the purchaser, and where there is collusion it is very hard for the Prices Branch to obtain a conviction.

## GREATER PORT ADELAIDE SCHEME.

Mr. TAPPING—Can the Minister of Marine say how many owners of property within the Harbors Board acquisition scheme have refused to accept an offer of Sutton Limited acting on behalf of the board? As property owners concerned are perturbed because of their uncertain position, can the Minister say whether he proposes to take court proceedings to determine the matter?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I thank the honourable member for his courtesy in earlier intimating to me that he intended to ask this question. I have been in communication with the Harbors Board, and, speaking from memory, I can say that in nearly 1,000 cases an agreed price has been arrived at. In about 90 cases—many of them cases in which a direct approach was difficult—negotiations are continuing. In about 98 cases the landholders have refused to accept the figure offered and substantiated, but I emphatically state that up to the present no landholder has in any way been forced to accept a price. Landholders still have open to them the ordinary citizen's right of having an assessment made by the appropriate court. I hope that the remaining cases will soon be finalized. Generally speaking, in 99 cases out of 100 the Government is accused of paying too much for land, but in this case it is suggested, for the first time in my long experience, that the Government is getting land too cheaply. I would rather see a person getting a little more than be deprived of his rights, and that is the atmosphere in which I will approach any case submitted to me.

## QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I have received complaints regarding the inadequate seating accommodation at the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, and I believe the complaint is general. The position is that women who are called up for medical examination—and I am most concerned about those in advanced stages of pregnancy—are required to stand in fairly long queues and remain standing, sometimes for up to two hours. Some of those from my district leave home as early at 7 a.m. and it is after 12.30 p.m. in some instances when they leave. Will the Premier request the Minister of Health to take up with the administrators of the hospital the question of providing adequate seating accommodation for such women?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Immediately after the war the Health Department was

confronted with the serious problem, arising from the fact that during the war no hospitals were built, that hospital accommodation generally was inadequate for the increased demands. Large amounts have been provided to the Queen Victoria Hospital by way of Government grants to enable extensions to be built, and in addition steps were taken to establish the Western Districts Hospital, which is now being built as fast as possible. This should result in relief this year from the existing congestion. A proposal has been adopted by the Government which will enable the nurses' quarters to be used in conjunction with other completed buildings for nursing services. I agree with the honourable member that everything possible should be done to provide the best services, and I will be happy to place his question before the Minister of Health.

#### HOUSING: CLARE AND RIVERTON.

Mr. QUIRKE—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked last week regarding the building of Housing Trust homes at Clare and Riverton?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have received a report from the trust that it is making a survey of the position at both towns and is getting in contact with the local authorities. I will make the detailed report available to the honourable member.

#### FEEDER BUS SERVICES.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Residents of the Glynde and Wellington wards of the Payneham Council and Hectorville ward of the Campbelltown Council are in difficulties concerning public transport because of the complete inadequacy of the Firle feeder bus service. Recently 1,494 residents of these areas sent a petition to the Tramways Board asking for an improved service, but to date they have been promised nothing. Will the Premier take up the matter with the trust and see if it can give any undertaking for an improved service?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will have the matter investigated.

#### DUPLICATION OF GOODWOOD-MARINO LINE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Minister of Railways give me a reply to my question of last week concerning the duplication of the Goodwood-Marino railway line?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Sufficient funds are expected to be made available on the

1953-54 loan programme to enable work to proceed between Edwardstown and Oaklands, and it is expected that this section of the Marino line will be completed this financial year. Progress beyond Oaklands will depend on the availability of funds after June, 1954.

#### ADELAIDE-MARINO RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Railways a reply to my question of last week concerning the Adelaide-Marino rail service?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have received the following reply from the Acting Railways Commissioner:—

Although in the morning and evening peak hours it is necessary on some of the trains for a number of passengers to stand as far as Goodwood, Clarence Park or Edwardstown, it is not considered that these trains are unduly overcrowded. It is not feasible for any suburban transport system to provide sufficient accommodation during peak hours to ensure that all passengers will have seating accommodation, and it can be said that the Adelaide railway suburban peak service is not as crowded as such services are in Melbourne and Sydney, nor indeed as our own Adelaide trams and buses. It should also be mentioned that the "F" class tank engine cannot haul more than six coaches to Marino because of the heavy grade between Brighton and Marino.

As one who has made a close observation of actualities I must say that a system which provides everything for everybody in peak periods would be so costly that no-one could afford it.

#### PORT PIRIE STORM DAMAGE.

Mr. DAVIS—In reply to a question I asked last week regarding storm damage at Port Pirie the Minister of Marine suggested that I put the matter in writing, as I had so far only raised it by question. For his information I point out that when it became known that the Government had made £200,000 available to meet the cost of storm damage I approached the Minister and asked about the procedure to follow to get some of the money. He told me to get in touch with the town clerk of Port Pirie and then have a claim made to the committee. I did this, and a letter was sent on June 12 giving information about the storm damage, and setting out the cubic yards of material necessary and the estimated cost. Later the town clerk received the following letter from the office of the Minister of Marine, dated June 15:—

I am directed by the Minister of Marine to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12th instant regarding the recent storm damage. Your request has been forwarded to the committee appointed for investigation and report.

Can the Minister say whether a report has been received, and if it is a matter for the committee why did he tell me to bring it before Cabinet?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Obviously when there is no notice of a question of that sort there is room for misunderstanding, and I did not hear the first part of the question. I will now investigate the matter thoroughly. I assure the honourable member that the request for storm damage has been placed before the committee; if that is not so I will see that it is done.

Mr. Davis—You said it should go to Cabinet.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—There is always room for a misunderstanding. I now make a correction and say that if the matter should go before the committee and that has not been done, it will be done immediately. On the other hand, if it is a matter for Cabinet it will be placed before Cabinet.

#### WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I understand the Commonwealth Government has laid it down that returned men from Korea are entitled to land settlement once they become approved applicants, in the same way as men who returned from World War II. The Minister will remember that last year he told the then member for Torrens that about 450 qualified ex-servicemen from World War II. had been informed that the Government could not guarantee them land settlement. As these 450 men are not likely to be settled on the land, what possibility is there for settling men returned from the Korean front, now that a truce has been signed?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—A considerable time ago it was agreed that consideration would be given to men returning from the Korean front in the same way as it was given to ex-servicemen from World War II. So much was this so that in connection with irrigation areas an additional number were added to those already awaiting blocks, and the Commonwealth Government has agreed to additional plantings to cater for this additional number of men. As far as dried fruit areas are concerned, the Korean men will go before the classification committee and get blocks according to merit. In the meantime we are short of suitable land in good rainfall areas but the Government is doing everything possible to get it. It is estimated that only about 20 men from Korea will be applicants for soldier settlement blocks.

#### CROYDON PARK SEWERAGE.

Mr. JENNINGS—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on July 25 regarding sewerage facilities at Croydon Park?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I had previously received a communication on this matter from the Hon. S. C. Bevan, M.L.C. The actual position is that Liberton Avenue, the next street south of Shirley Avenue, is sewered but ground levels will not permit of Shirley Avenue and other streets to the north being drained back to the existing sewers. Preliminary investigations indicated that the estimated cost would considerably exceed £30,000, which is the Statutory limit placed upon schemes with which the Government may proceed without reference to the Public Works Standing Committee.

The Engineer-in-Chief reports that approximately five miles of sewers would be required to serve Croydon Park (or Croydon North as it is often referred to) and that the estimated cost would be £55,200. On account of the water-bearing sandy clayey ground in this locality construction costs would be much greater than in the northern, eastern, or southern suburbs where the ground is better drained. There are about 400 houses and 300 vacant allotments in the locality and as there is considerable building development taking place I suggest that the proposal be taken to Cabinet, with a view to an early reference to the Public Works Committee.

#### ONE-BRAND PETROL STATIONS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Since the establishment of one-brand petrol stations there has been much dissatisfaction among some proprietors because of the actions of others. I understand that under section 49, subsections (3) and (4), of the Early Closing Act a licence is granted setting out the hours in which a person may trade. There is also a provision that a service station may serve a client in case of emergency. From what I have been told, and heard over the air, it seems that one station will serve petrol 24 hours a day, and that some owners are making improper use of the emergency provision. Will the Premier have the matter checked and see if the position is as I have set it out, and can he indicate what was intended by the use of the word "emergency"?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I shall be pleased to have this matter checked. I have received a number of requests, including one from garage proprietors for the hours at present being serviced to be reduced, one from certain

retailers to be permitted to sell for 24 hours a day, and one from the Royal Automobile Association that the present service be not cut down; so there seem to be conflicting views as to hours. I will get a departmental definition of the word "emergency" and let the honourable member have a report, probably tomorrow.

#### PAINTING CONTRACTS FOR TRUST HOUSES.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Has the Premier a reply to my question of Thursday last regarding painting contracts for housing trust homes?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The report of the chairman of the Housing Trust is as follows:—

It is common practice in the building trade for painting to be carried out by a sub-contractor and the South Australian Housing Trust accordingly permits sub-contracts to be carried out by approved sub-contractors. The trust, however, does not permit a sub-contractor to sublet the work to others although, on occasions, it is difficult to discover when this is being done as the parties concerned usually do not volunteer information. As regards the jobs in question, the inspecting officers of the trust were some weeks ago concerned with the quality of the painting being done and the principal contractor was informed that it was suspected that the sub-contractor was sub-letting the work. The principal contractor denied that this was the case. However, much of the work was condemned and has been, or is being, made good.

#### RAILWAYS SERVICES.

Mr. LAWN—Can the Minister of Railways say why the "Man-in-blue" service at the Adelaide railway station has been curtailed? I understand there is no service from 9.30 p.m. Friday until 3.30 p.m. Saturday nor from 7.30 p.m. Saturday until 6 a.m. Monday, although this desirable service was previously available over the week-end.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Almost 13,000 employees are under the control and charge of the Acting Railways Commissioner, and if the services of any one are curtailed the matter does not come before me as Minister: but this matter having been raised I will have it investigated and bring down a reply as early as possible, probably tomorrow.

#### CONDITION OF LOCOMOTIVE.

Mr. DAVIS—On reaching Bumbunga at 7.50 p.m. on Friday the Adelaide-Port Pirie train on which I was travelling was held up because the south-bound train which was due to cross there was late. After spending some time at Bumbunga the train staff was told to proceed

to Snowtown, where we found the Adelaide-bound train held up because of engine trouble. Apparently the locomotive—No. 604—was in bad condition and I have been informed that it frequently breaks down. Apparently it needs an overhaul as its use frequently results in trains arriving hours late. Will the Minister of Railways inquire whether the locomotive can be effectively repaired or, if this is not possible, taken off the line altogether?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—As it is not my province to say whether the locomotive should be taken off the line, Parliament not having entrusted me with that responsibility, I will direct the question to the Acting Railways Commissioner.

#### HOUSING TRUST: PREFERENCE TO EX-SERVICEMEN.

Mr. LAWN—Since World War II, preference has been given to ex-servicemen by Housing Trust authorities when allocating homes. Will returned men from Korea be treated similarly?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes.

#### PARKING OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

Mr. LAWN—In reply to my question of Tuesday last the Minister of Local Government said he was not aware of any person, other than members and officers of Parliament, permitted to park vehicles in front of Parliament House, except members of the judiciary and the Chief Storekeeper, who is chairman of the State Coal Committee. I have been advised by the House Committee that it has on many occasions drawn the attention of the Minister of Local Government to the fact that other persons were parking vehicles there. Is the House Committee correct in saying that the Minister's attention was drawn to this matter or is the Minister correct in his statement?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—So far as I know no person other than members and the persons mentioned by me previously has authority to use or is using that space. A policeman is in charge there and if any other person is using it, it is not with my permission. The police have been given the names of owners and the registered numbers of certain motor cars; whence they got them I do not know, but so far as I know they are the names of members and staff of this House. It seems remarkable that the honourable member has authority to speak on behalf of the House Committee.

Mr. Lawn—I said “members of the House Committee.”

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—They have not informed me. I shall be glad to have their co-operation to ensure that parking space is made available, for, like other honourable members, I have found difficulty in getting parking space when I required it.

Mr. LAWN—The Minister still says that he has not been advised. When I said that the House Committee advised me I should have said members of that committee. Is the Minister aware that there is a list in the House upon which any member can put the number of a registered vehicle and then the owner of that vehicle has parking facilities in front of the House? And will the Minister check that list to see whether the names thereon consist solely of the names of members of the House and members of the Parliamentary staff?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I did check the list and the information I gave was, to the best of my knowledge and belief, absolutely correct.

#### MOTOR CYCLISTS: DEATH RATE.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—Is it the intention of the Government to consider the appointment of a committee, representative of appropriate organizations, to inquire into and report on means of reducing the death rate amongst South Australian motor cyclists?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This question will be referred to the State Traffic Committee for report.

#### ASSEMBLY ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—Is it the intention of the Government to consider an adjustment of the Semaphore electorate boundaries in view of the considerable increase in the number of electors and the isolation of the Albert Park subdivision?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No. Many country areas are much more remote than the Albert Park subdivision.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. Is the Treasurer aware that the Committee on Electoral Reform in 1936, in arriving at its recommendations for the adjustment of the House of Assembly electoral boundaries, worked on the principle of the retention in each district of a quota of votes as evenly balanced as possible in districts of similar category?

2. Is it the intention of the Government to consider the revision of House of Assembly

electoral boundaries on a similar quota principle in the light of population changes since 1936?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. An examination of the report shows that a number of considerations were taken into account by the committee in 1936.

2. *Vide* No. 1.

#### TRAMWAYS TRUST ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. Is Colonel Bingham of the United States of America coming to South Australia to advise the Municipal Tramways Trust Board on future transport administration?

2. If so—(a) what are the terms and the period of the appointment; and (b) what will be the cost of Colonel Bingham's services?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The General Manager, Municipal Tramways Trust, reports:—

1. Colonel Bingham, of New York, has been engaged to review the plan for the rehabilitation of the trust, now under preparation, and to advise on the future development of road passenger transport in this city.

2. Colonel Bingham, who will bring an engineer with him, will study the plan in Adelaide and subsequently report thereon. He will be in Adelaide between 10 and 14 days. The actual cost will depend on the length of his stay in Adelaide, but will not exceed £5,000, including fares and hotel expenses.

#### BRICK MANUFACTURE AT YATALA PRISON.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. Are concrete bricks being manufactured by prisoners at Yatala Labour Prison?

2. If so—(a) What is the quantity being manufactured weekly? (b) which Government departments or instrumentalities, including the South Australian Housing Trust, are being supplied? (c) what is the rate per thousand being charged to such departments or instrumentalities?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. Yes.

2. (a) 16,480 average over six months; (b) Architect-in-Chief, Engineering and Water Supply Department, Education Department, Hospitals Department, Tourist Bureau, Long Range Weapons Department, and South Australian Housing Trust; (c) £10.

#### SOUTH PARA RESERVOIR.

Mr. JOHN CLARK (on notice)—

1. What amount has already been spent on the construction of the South Para Reservoir?



2. What amount was spent in the last financial year?

3. What is the approximate anticipated total cost?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The replies are:—

1. Total expenditure to 30/6/53, £781,595.
2. Expenditure for year ended 30/6/53, £177,613.
3. £3,000,000.

#### BASIC WAGE AND HOUSING TRUST RENTS.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. What amount weekly is allowed for rent in the computation of the basic wage?

2. What weekly rental is charged by the Housing Trust for its houses of various sizes?

3. Are Housing Trust rents considered by the Commonwealth Statistician in fixing the allowance for rent in compiling the basic wage?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration does not determine the basic wage in component parts; that is, it does not "allow" any specified amount for rent or any other individual element in the cost of living. It determines an overall amount for the basic wage in the light of evidence before it as to economic conditions, capacity of industry to pay and any evidence submitted as to the cost of living.

In December, 1950, when the Commonwealth court raised the Federal basic wage generally by about £1 per week, the South Australian living wage for males was increased by £1 1s. per week to bring it to the same level as the Federal basic wage for Adelaide, and it has since been adjusted quarterly on the same scale as the Federal basic wage to retain that parity. (See pages 103 and 36-37 of Annual Labour Report, 1951 (No. 40), of the Commonwealth Statistician.)

2. Rents of semi-detached brick houses.—Houses of three rooms or three rooms and sleep-out—rents range from 25s. 6d. to 35s. per week; houses of four rooms or four rooms and sleep-out—rents range from 27s. to 40s. per week; houses of five rooms or five rooms and sleep-out—rents range from 28s. to 45s. per week; houses of six rooms—rents range from 35s. to 52s. 6d. per week.

Rents of detached houses.—Timber frame house of five rooms—rents range from 27s. 6d. to £3 per week; brick houses of five rooms—rents range from 36s. 6d. to 57s. 6d. per week.

3. The Commonwealth Statistician advises that Housing Trust rents in South Australia are considered and periodically analysed by him in relation to the "C" Series retail price index-numbers, from which the Commonwealth Arbitration Court derives its quarterly adjustments to the basic wage. The Statistician informs the court of relevant matters, when required, in the form of memoranda to the court during the basic wage hearings, or at other times.

In regard to the latter part of the question, the Commonwealth Statistician wishes it to be expressly stated again that he does not fix any allowance for rent for basic wage purposes, nor any other purpose, that he does not compile a basic wage, and that the sole responsibility for determining the amount of basic wage and its variations rests with the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, and (in South Australia) the Board of Industry. The position in this regard is set out on pages 36 and 37 and pages 103 of the Annual Labour Report of the Commonwealth Statistician (No. 40 of 1951).

#### FIRE STATION PERSONNEL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice)—

1. How many officers and men are needed each shift to man fully all the appliances at the Adelaide Fire Station?

2. How many additional officers and men are needed in order to provide for recreation and sick leave at—(a) Adelaide Fire Station; and (b) suburban fire stations?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board reports:—

1. Headquarters—Maximum officers and men, 27; minimum officers and men, 21.

2. (a) and (b)—Men from Adelaide and suburban fire stations are interchangeable. Recreational leave for whole brigade is twenty (20) men. Sick leave, 1952-53, average 1½ men.

#### HINDMARSH BRIDGE.

Mr. HUTCHENS (on notice)—

1. What is the cost to date of widening the Hindmarsh Bridge?

2. What is the anticipated total cost?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Commissioner of Highways reports:—

1. £33,694.

2. £53,500.

#### EYRE PENINSULA ROADS.

Mr. PEARSON (on notice)—

1. When did the Highways Department gang now resurfacing the bitumen road between Whyalla and Lincoln Gap commence work on this section?

2. During which years was this section of road constructed and bituminized?

3. What expenditure was necessary during the two years ended June 30, 1953, exclusive of the present operation, to keep this road in repair?

4. During which years was the road from Port Lincoln to Tumby Bay constructed and bituminized?

5. What expenditure was incurred during the two years ended June 30, 1953, in keeping this road in repair?

6. Is the Lincoln Gap to Whyalla road being resurfaced prior to the Tumby Bay to Port Lincoln road because of the more favourable winter climate?

7. If so, is it the intention of the Commissioner to switch the gang to the latter road immediately the winter is over?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Commissioner of Highways reports:—

1. On May, 11, 1953.
2. During 1938-1941.
3. £612.
4. Port Lincoln to North Shields, 1934-1936; North Shields to junction with Bratten Way, 1939-1940.
5. £11,469.
6. The base of the Lincoln Gap to Whyalla section was quite sound, but the road was in need of resurfacing and advantage was taken of the dry climate to do it at this season of the year. A different type of maintenance is required on the Tumby Bay to Port Lincoln section of the Lincoln highway, and this is being carried out by the maintenance gang stationed in that area.
7. It is not intended to transfer the spraying gang to the latter road as soon as the winter is over.

#### ARTILLERY RANGE SITE.

Mr. McAlees, for Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. Have negotiations been conducted between the Commonwealth and State Governments regarding a site for an artillery range in South Australia?
2. If so, what is the result of these negotiations?
3. Is it proposed to establish an artillery range at Lincoln Gap?
4. If so (a) what is the size of the proposed establishment?; and (b) what steps have been taken to provide services to the camp?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government submitted a proposed site for a range to the Commonwealth Government nearly two years ago.

#### WOLSELEY-MOUNT GAMBIER RAILWAY GAUGE.

Mr. McAlees, for Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. Did the Railways Standardization Agreement with the Commonwealth Government provide for the Commonwealth accepting 70 per cent of the cost of broadening the gauge of the Wolseley-Mount Gambier railway, and the State 30 per cent?
2. Has the Commonwealth Government reimbursed the State 70 per cent of the total cost of broadening the gauge?
2. Did the Commonwealth insist on certain deductions from the total cost before accepting its 70 per cent share of the liability?
4. What was (a) the total cost of broadening the gauge; and (b) what amount has been contributed by the Commonwealth?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Acting Railways Commissioner reports:—

1. Yes.
2. From the time the work was brought under the Standardization Agreement Act, the Commonwealth Government has paid its share, up to date, in terms of the agreement.
3. No. The Commonwealth has met the expenditure in terms of the agreement.
4. (a) The total cost up to June 30, 1953, is £3,108,782 (subject to adjustment account "Betterment" in terms of the agreement). (b) Amount received from Commonwealth Government up to June 30, 1953, is £2,182,904. (May and June accounts not yet paid.)

#### STUDENT TEACHERS.

Mr. JENKINS (on notice)—

1. By whom are the salaries of student teachers fixed?
2. Are student teachers in the lower age groups paid only £4 per week whilst in training?
3. Does the Government provide any insurance cover for them in case of sickness or accident during training?
4. If not, is it the intention of the Government to consider the provision of some such cover?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The replies are:—

1. The salaries of student teachers are fixed by regulations made from time to time with the approval of the Government, after considering recommendations from the Director of Education.
2. The present scale of allowances to students at the Teachers College is as follows:—

General Allowances.—First year of training, £190; second year of training, £200; third year of training, £210. When the student is

living away from home, the allowances are as follows:—First year of training, £260; second year of training, £270; third year of training, £280.

**Travelling Allowances.**—A travelling allowance not exceeding £5 per annum in the case of a student who lives a distance of more than five (5) miles by the nearest practicable route from the Teachers College. A student whose home is situated more than one hundred (100) miles from Adelaide by the nearest practicable route has his return fare home paid once a year. Students whose homes are outside the State are granted a return fare to the nearest South Australian railway station to their home.

**Text Books.**—All text books are provided free of charge.

**Fees.**—All fees for University courses undertaken by our students are paid by the department, and no fees are charged for attendance by these students at the Teachers College.

3 and 4. Students at the Teachers College are covered by the normal workman's compensation provision. In addition, the students at the Teachers College may be granted sick leave with pay on the same basis as teachers. When medical expenses are incurred through accident, not due to negligence, *ex gratia* payments may be made to students.

#### COUNTRY HOSPITALS.

Mr. GOLDNEY (on notice)—

1. On what basis did the Government apportion £353,000 to country hospitals in six centres and £81,000 in 43 other centres, out of money allotted for the benefit of country communities, in 1951-52?

2. (a) What amount was expended on country Government hospitals in 1952-53? (b) What amount was paid as subsidies to country Government subsidized hospitals? (c) What was the average amount per day paid by in-patients at country Government hospitals? (d) What was the average amount per day paid by in-patients at country Government subsidized hospitals?

3. Is it the Minister's intention to consider taking action to ensure that country Government hospitals are made much more self-supporting?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. £353,000 was the cost to the Government of maintaining the six country Government hospitals. An amount of £109,619 was allotted to subsidized hospitals according to the needs of the respective hospitals.

2. (a) £398,000. (b) £124,861. (c) The fee charged for private beds is £2 5s. per day, and for public beds 8s. per day is received from hospital benefits. (d) Information is not available from hospitals concerned until after September 30, 1953.

3. It is not practicable to alter the present practice in Government hospitals which have the obligation of caring for indigent cases and conducting training facilities.

#### HOUSING TRUST HOMES, GILLES PLAINS.

Mr. JENNINGS (on notice)—

1. How many prefabricated Housing Trust houses at Gilles Plains are completed (except for services) and unoccupied?

2. When will electricity, water, and sewerage be connected?

3. How long have these completed houses been unoccupied?

4. Has the trust applied to the Electricity Trust for electrical connections to these houses?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. Two hundred, of which 19 are now supplied with services. The last of these services was installed in the 19 houses during the week ending July 25, 1953. These houses will be occupied within about a week and as houses are connected with services they will be occupied.

2. The electricity supply is lagging due to the fact that, owing to the conditions created by the recent wet weather, the Electricity Trust of South Australia has found it impossible to get heavy equipment in for the erection of poles and mains. All electrical work on the houses is ready for connection when the poles and mains are in position. In most cases water is available, but the connection of some houses has been held up while the sewer mains were connected; this applies to cases where it was necessary to connect from the water main to the other side of the street. The sewers are now available to all houses, and only the work of connecting up inside the fences remains.

3. Twenty-nine houses were ready except for services in January, 1953, and the balance have reached that stage during the remaining months of 1953.

4. Yes.

#### PENWORTHAM RAILWAY BRIDGE.

Mr. CHRISTIAN (no notice)—

1. What was the full cost of the new road bridge over the railway line at Penwortham?

2. What was the full cost of the new approaches and embankments to the new bridge, including land resumptions, if any?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Commissioner of Highways reports:—

1. £16,595.
2. £27,395.

#### BRIDGE AT BLANCHETOWN.

Mr. STOTT (on notice)—Is it the intention of the Government to provide money in the Estimates for 1953-54 to erect a bridge across the River Murray at Blanchetown?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Before the Estimates, which provide for the expenditure of more than £30,000 for any public work, can be introduced, the project must have been reported upon by the Public Works Standing Committee. It is not anticipated that any project can be prepared and reported upon in time for this year's Estimates, which are now ready for introduction.

#### COUNTRY ROAD WORK.

Mr. STOTT (on notice)—When will the Highways Department—(a) commence work to bituminize the road from Karoonda to Alawoona and Loxton, and (b) complete the surfacing of the road in the township of Swan Reach?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Commissioner of Highways reports:—

(a) Reconstruction works in hand and contemplated on more heavily trafficked roads and on roads of access to new settlements will not at present permit of the allocation of funds for the Karoonda-Loxton road; and at this juncture the date of commencement of further work on this road cannot be given. (b) If the District Council of Keyneton and Swan Reach is able to organize the supply of screenings, and can carry out the surfacing of the road in the township of Swan Reach, funds can be allotted for this work during the current financial year.

#### PARINGA AND KAROONDA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. STOTT (on notice)—

1. When will approved work commence on the Paringa town water supply?

2. Is it the intention of the department to complete the Karoonda town water supply scheme this financial year?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The replies are:—

1. The first of the pipes for the Paringa water supply have been delivered and a start on the laying will be made as soon as the pipe contractors can supply sufficient pipes. It is planned to have the scheme operating before next summer.

2. Provision is being asked in the 1953-54 Loan programme for the Karoonda water supply, and it is hoped to complete same during this financial year.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

(Continued from July 23. Page 152.)

Mr. DUNSTAN (Norwood)—I support the motion and at the outset want to refer to some remarks made by Mr. Dunks. It is refreshing when one's political opponents disclose with such disarming honesty the basis of their political actions, and those of their colleagues. It is not often that a member of a Government Party discloses with such complete candour the basis of his political actions. Normally a member of a Party supporting a *laissez faire* economy is wholly concerned in making clap-trap remarks and pious utterances. The honourable member said that he felt it was time to get back to the old days when our economic activity was the survival of the fittest. What is the basis of a political philosophy which relies on the survival of the fittest or, to use a euphemistic term, free competition? It would be well to go through the argument associated with *laissez faire* economics and see what is proposed by the Government. It runs something like this: in a state of perfect competition when neither buyer nor seller can affect the market because there are so many buyers and sellers, the price mechanism will draw forth the optimum level of production. That is to say, the price mechanism will give the best value to the community, and we shall have complete employment, full production, and marginal firms would be 'squeezed out' because they are uneconomic. There would be free competition, as it were. The difficulty about that is that it makes certain assumptions which are at presently totally invalid. There cannot be free competition, or the perfect competition to which economists refer. We have none at present. In no part of our economic life does perfect competition exist. Our labour market is unfluid because we have a well-organized labour market: perfect competition relies on a pool of unemployed. In these days firms have been organized through employers' federations, retail trade federations, trusts, cartels and monopolies, and there is no perfect competition in manufacturing or in most retail trades. The result is that the buyer cannot affect the market in most circumstances, but the seller can do so. The result of what the honourable

member proposes—the removal of controls that protect the man in the street—would be that big business would be unleashed upon the man in the street and he would have to face being fleeced by monopolist interests.

It is refreshing to hear such a programme voiced with disarming candour by a member of the Government Party. Normally members of that Party do not put their views quite so clearly. Unlike Mr. Dunks, they wrap up their philosophy and we have to judge them, not by their words, but by their deeds. Under the present system of economics as I have outlined it, it is necessary, in order to have protection for the man in the street, to have some measure of central economic planning. We had some measure of it, the little we are allowed under the Federal Constitution, under the Chifley Labor Government, when a system of central planning was in operation, through a series of controls. With price control there were profit and wages controls. Wages were tied to prices, and so could not go up. Profits were controlled because under the formula they were fixed and only a fair margin of profit was allowed. Prices were kept down by keeping the lid on. There was capital issues control to see that money invested went into things necessary for the development of the country and not into items of quick profit. We had bank credit control which saw that there was no investment in unnecessary directions. That system meant a great deal to Australia. It meant that our economy was the best-ordered of any Commonwealth or allied country. Figures amply prove it. This country's economy can best be contrasted with the economy of other countries by having a look at a table dealing with wholesale price increases from 1939 to the last quarter of 1947. Statistics for that period show that our increase was 47 points. The increase in New Zealand was 55 points, South Africa 70, Canada 76, Great Britain 93, United States of America 100, Argentine 144, and France 844. These figures amply prove the benefits of the system of control I have outlined. The basic necessity for protection of the public is a system of central economic planning.

Unlike Mr. Dunks, many of the other members opposite do not voice their complete opposition to price and other controls. They said, when it was necessary in order to continue these controls, to come to the people on a prices referendum, "Oh well, we need price control but not Commonwealth price control. Price control can

be adequately administered by the States." They knew that that was not the position. They knew perfectly well that with six different authorities you could not have a satisfactory set-up. They knew that if they removed price, profit and wages controls that would strike at the other controls. The result has been adequately dealt with by Mr. Dunks in his quotation from a labour report. It shows that retail prices of essential household goods have risen alarmingly, and more sharply between 1940 and 1952 than in any other Commonwealth or allied country. In Great Britain the increase was 168 points, Canada 183, New Zealand 172, South Africa 192 and the United States of America 190. Our increase was 245 points. This shows the result of State price control. The Premier illustrated its effect admirably in his reply to Mr. Hutchens recently when he said that the marketing of potatoes in Australia is completely chaotic because New South Wales has decontrolled potato prices, which means that any price fixed by a State becomes an upset price. It is obvious that you cannot control prices of goods going across the border because of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution. Mr. Dunks is perfectly right in saying that the price control we have at present is ineffective. It was never intended by his colleagues to be otherwise. He can at least console himself with the thought that whereas wages are lagging behind price increases, profits, having been released from control, are on the average 15.4 per cent in manufacturing industry throughout Australia, and with the further thought that his Party colleagues in Canberra are introducing measures which will strike at the other controls. They have hamstrung bank credit control and restored the Commonwealth Bank Board. The Commonwealth has messed around with capital issues control and they are effective no more.

I now turn to some remarks made by Mr. Travers in his able speech. He referred with admiration to our Parliamentary institutions, in which members on this side believe. We believe it is necessary to maintain Parliamentary democracy. We believe that it is the best system of Government for any society like our own. We believe in the rights of people to vote on an adult suffrage basis and elect the Government they want, and that one man's vote should count no more than the next man's vote. We also believe there should be the right of free speech, free association, free

assembly, and the right of an organized Opposition to put forward unusual and even unpopular opinions; for any democracy can stand the test of opposing opinions so long as it is allowed to stand that test and those opinions are not suppressed. Unfortunately, however, our Parliamentary institutions are unlike those we were taught to believe in when studying the history of Britain. Our Constitutions are based not on a democratic franchise but on a system by which a minority may govern. The Government of South Australia has been elected by a smaller percentage of the vote in this State than has its colleague Party in any other Australian State, although those other Parties are in Opposition. Yet this Government clings to office and it is rather difficult to see what excuse can be advanced by Government members for this state of affairs. How can they excuse themselves and say such a practice is democratic? Of course they do not. Inside the House members of the Government on most occasions studiously refrain from discussing the matter, hoping that if they do not say anything about it people will forget about it, but the Premier, in reply to a question from the member of Adelaide on Tuesday last, apparently attempted some sort of excuse for the position. He said:—

The number of electors is not the same in each district, neither is there equality of numbers of electors in the House of Representative electorates throughout the Commonwealth, nor is the quota to elect a senator the same in each State.

That is a piece of special pleading. The Premier knows that the electors of the House of Representatives have their electorates based on a quota system and that, when an electorate exceeds that quota or is under the quota, in due course the electorates are altered to ensure approximately equal representation. With regard to the quota percentages generally the Premier knows that the Senate was designed as a States House to protect State rights, and there is no analogy with this House. He then said that it was not intended to alter the number of electorates for the House of Assembly, giving as an excuse that the standard of amenities provided in the country was still lower than that in the metropolitan area. Of course it is lower and it will continue to be so until the present electoral system is altered, for until the Premier decentralizes industry country areas will not get the facilities of which he speaks. The Premier will not decentralize industry for he knows that if he does so Labor voters will be taken to country areas on which he relies at present for his majority.

When one discusses this matter outside this House with Liberals, some of whom have been members of that Party for many years, they admit in private that there is perhaps something wrong with the system and that it is not very fair; but, in excusing it, they say, "Even admitting this is a sort of oligarchy or dictatorship it is a benevolent one and, no matter how undemocratic it is, it is a good thing for South Australia." I disagree entirely with the proposition that it is benevolent. Let us take the example of the underprivileged people of this State, the pensioners, of whom there are many in my district and with whose problems I am familiar. Last year the Government defeated a motion sponsored by the Labor Party that special provision should be made for the housing of pensioners. It was claimed by the Government that the present provisions for housing by the Housing Trust would adequately meet pensioners' needs. The honourable member for Onkaparinga even said that the present Housing Trust flats would cater for such people, but how can they? Such flats are rented at £3 3s. a week for the smaller ones and £3 10s. for the larger. A pensioner couple occupying a smaller flat and paying £3 3s. a week would have £1 16s. a week each for all other necessities of life. Such people would starve, but apparently that is all the provision that honourable gentlemen opposite were prepared to make.

With regard to other provisions of the Housing Trust for pensioners, all members know how difficult it is to get a pensioner couple into one of the newer Housing Trust rental homes, for the rent of such homes is too high and the Housing Trust considers such a couple should not go into one. To get a pensioner couple into a Housing Trust rental home one must wait for a vacancy in an older home; but the rents of the older rental homes have been increased, so apparently no provision will be made for pensioners as both the older and the newer homes are too expensive for them. They certainly cannot pay £3 5s. a week to rent a timber frame shack at Clear View. What hope is there, then, for them? None at all, unless they go into places such as the hovels in which they are forced to live in my district. When I look at such places I am appalled and disgusted that these people are forced to live in such places. Why has no provision been made for them? Because their votes do not count, for they live in the metropolitan area. The Government applies the principle enunciated by the honourable member for Mitcham, "The survival of the fittest," and lets these people go to the wall. What hope

is there for them when they become too poor and ill even to live in the hovels I mentioned? The Magill Old Folks Home is full, the Northfield Mental Hospital and the wards for the aged in the infirmary are full. All these institutions have waiting lists, as have private institutions providing for old folk. Some private institutions in my district have colossal waiting lists. The most recent report of the Superintendent of Mental Institutions states:—

It is again stated that the mental hospitals are overcrowded to the degree that corridors and day-rooms have had to be used for sleeping quarters, and at the present time there exists approval for new buildings which will accommodate only 50 patients. The proposed new buildings at Northfield Mental Hospital for 260 patients for senile patients and mentally deficient children are still in the hands of the architects. Relevant to the planning for the next ten years, attention is called to the increase of the State's population of 58,945 individuals during the past three years. This represents an annual increase of approximately 3 per cent and as the ratio of patients in mental hospitals is 3.31 per 1,000 of population the increase in the mental hospitals on the population basis alone is calculated to be some 65 individuals annually. For some 15 years these annual reports have continually drawn attention to the unduly high percentage of senile patients sent to mental hospitals. However, the past year has seen a manifestation of interest on the part of society in general for the proper care of the aged who need some hospital care. It is true that the medical care of the aged must, more and more, become the special province of psychiatry, but I do again refer to the ever increasing number of patients admitted to the mental hospitals where treatment in an infirmary type of hospital would be more appropriate. So often the relatives of the aged infirm patients state that they are unable to secure any accommodation, and as a consequence seek the help of the mental hospitals. To account for the increased number of old people requiring hospital care one may mention:—The increased number in the population consequent upon increase in the population itself and the fact that people are living longer; the shortage of houses and the overcrowding per house; the so-called prosperity wherein many members of families are employed in industry leaving no-one with time enough to care for the aged relative at home. Moreover, a very large number of elderly people are sent to the mental hospitals during the terminal stages of impaired physical health with consequent manifestations of mental symptoms. Of the 378 admissions to Parkside Mental Hospital, 157 were over the age of 65 years at the time of admission, and the average age of all deaths at Parkside Mental Hospital was 68 years. Of the deaths over 65 years old at the time, eight had been admitted during the previous week, 20 had been in residence less than four weeks and greater than one week, 52 had been in residence between three and nine months.

These are the patients who, in the main, could have been admitted, more appropriately to an infirmary type of hospital rather than be certified as mentally defective.

For 15 years attention has been drawn to the unduly high percentage of senile patients sent to mental hospitals, so the excuse that hospitals could not be built during the war does not apply. When they are too ill to carry on and if they have no relatives to look after them such people are put into an overcrowded mental asylum and forced to live in day-rooms and corridors. Any honourable member opposite who has inspected the Parkside Mental Hospital knows the frightful conditions under which the inmates are forced to live and, unfortunately, to die. The present Government reigns in this State against the wishes and interests of South Australians. I support the motion.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE (Burnside)—I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election to your high office. Like yourself I am a traditionalist. It pleased me to see your traditional protest of unworthiness and your seeming reluctance to proceed to the chair, and to hear your speech from the top step of your platform. These were links with tradition which transcend party differences and it is pleasing to members who like tradition to see it preserved in this fashion. I am sure that both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition when abroad saw with great pleasure the revival of old ceremony and tradition in the recent Coronation. As this is a matter close to your heart, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that when the Queen honors this House with a visit next year, Her Majesty might be graciously pleased to present a mace to this House, for this is the only Australian Parliament without one. The City of Adelaide and the University have maces and in each case the dignity and ceremony which accompany the business of both institutions are aided by the existence of the mace. I add my word of praise to the many which the Government has received for its outstanding gift to the children of this State to celebrate the Coronation—copies of the New Testament and of the Gospels, which were distributed through the schools. Most people are not unaware that this was the only State which made such a gift, and undoubtedly praise is due for this farseeing recognition of this memorable event. If indeed, as we hope, the Korean war is over, it will of course be a cause of great gratification to us, and I hope and

confidently expect that the Government will take early steps to afford to the veterans of Korea the same rights and privileges which have been granted to other members of the forces who served overseas.

The member for Norwood, in an impassioned speech, referred to the lack of democracy in this House, but he was accorded the privilege of democracy in being heard without interruption. His speech reminded me of what Sir Winston Churchill remarked about A. P. Herbert's maiden speech—"a very brazen hussy of a speech." I compliment the members for Torrens and Murray on their constructive contributions to this debate, which is a sounding board for the electorates and for the voice of the people. The member for Norwood went to some pains to express the untenable view that this Parliament does not represent the expression of the political consciousness of the people of this State. I have heard it said and seen it written that it is practically impossible for the Labor Party to win an election in this State. As honourable members know, in this Parliament there are 21 members supporting the Government 14 Labor members and 4 Independents. The majority which the Government now has to support it is, I think, the second highest it has had since 1938. It has been suggested that the arrangement of electoral boundaries was designed to aid the return of Government candidates. If that were so—and I make a firm interrogation after that phrase—then it was not a very successful gerrymander, because in the first election held under those boundaries there were only 15 Government candidates returned, 15 Independents of all political colours, and nine Labor candidates. The fact that 15 Independent candidates were returned is clear evidence that the seats were so nicely balanced that they were anybody's seats, and quite easily could have fallen to one side or the other. In fact, that was a complete justification for the boundaries then laid down. It has been suggested that the seats were so arranged that the Government could secure its weight of support from country districts. This is the remarkable position. In 1946 there were nine Labor members representing metropolitan constituencies and four L.C.L. members, but after the 1947 elections there were six Labor members and seven from the L.C.L. Paradoxically, this swing to Liberalism happened when Australia was going through its most grievous post-war adjustment—when the electorates were packed tight with people wanting homes, when industry was at its highest

peak of development for a period of 15 years, and yet there was this swing toward the Liberal Party in the metropolitan area.

People have expressed the view that the Labor Party cannot win in this State. If that is so, one must look somewhere else than to the electoral boundaries. At the last State election the Liberal Party won the Murray seat from Labor which it had never held before, and the Labor Party failed to win back Torrens, which was held by Labor when I first came into this House, and failed by only 35 votes to win Unley and by 150 votes to win Glenelg. If anyone tells me it is an impossible task for Labor to win when there were such narrow margins, then electoral boundaries are not the answer. If the Labor Party had won back Stanley, which was formerly held by a member of that Party, won back Torrens, which was held by Labor when I first came into this House, had retained Murray and obtained 35 votes in Unley and 150 in Glenelg, the state of Parties would have been—19 Labor, 17 L.C.L., and 3 Independents. So, one must look for another reason why Labor cannot win.

Whatever Mr. Jennings may think of the position in this Parliament, I am sure members of his Party will not agree with the following statement by him:—

It is nauseating to have to take part in the traditions and procedure of Parliament, knowing that this Parliament is only a masquerade of representative Parliament and that the traditions and procedure which were born with the origin of representative Parliament are here in South Australia only a facade to hide the suppression of democratic representation.

That is rather an audacious statement from a member with such a long political experience! What are the elements of good government? They are to see that the Government is kept close to the people. Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie has written an admirable book on the English Parliament and analyses the causes and the elements which went into the development of Parliamentary traditions and practices. Each century has made some notable addition to Parliamentary procedure, and he asks the very pertinent question, "What will be the contribution of the 20th century to Parliamentary government?" I must come again to the member for Prospect, who wants to break down the factors which I think will make the greatest contribution to Parliamentary government in this century, and that is the identification of the people with the functions of government as well as with the benefits which governments



bestow on them. The honourable member complained that school committees were obliged to work for the equipment of their schools and suggested that the work of the Kindergarten Union be taken over by the Government. The whole trend of good government should be the active participation of the people in the functions of government. The best government is only possible when the people share in its problems as well as in its handouts. The Opposition pays lip service to decentralization, but decentralization is a much greater thing even than putting an industry here or putting one there. By decentralization the functions of government are taken to the most remote corners of the constituency. Members opposite want to do away with State Parliaments—at least that is their policy—but I am sure that there is much reluctance to give expression to that outmoded and outworn platform. An English writer on social questions has said:—

Good politics foster and encourage and develop human responsibility, and enlarge the sphere of the creative imagination. Bad politics are those which discourage and diminish and destroy it.

Mr. Colin Clark, in his *Principles of Public Finance and Taxation* says, "The basic task of politics is to encourage and develop human responsibility." As he puts it, in other words it means the State should not provide anybody with any money or service for which they could have made adequate provision for themselves with a reasonable exercise of responsibility or thought. That is why the Government encourages self help, whether it be in kindergartens, school committees, community hospitals, or local governing authorities and the like. So far we have not had very constructive criticism from the Opposition about decentralization. Switzerland is often quoted as being a model of democracy. In that country, the Federal Government will not undertake anything which can be done better by cantons, and the cantons will not undertake any activity which can be better undertaken by the municipality. In Australia, regrettably, the trend is to run to the next higher authority, whether it be a Liberal or a Labor Government. It is refreshing to find that the Commonwealth is now anxious to hand back taxing powers to the States. It is quite proper in the Address in Reply to refer to what is colloquially known as "village pump politics." I, myself, could advance claims for school lavatories, public transport, school playing areas, sewerage for outlying areas and water supplies

and so on. However, members have a responsibility to the whole State, in which the interests of city and country are inseparable. The Government has the responsibility of spending to the best advantage of the whole State. In criticizing what it does, we must have some sense of proportion. When an honourable member, particularly a new member, complains that there is no more money and certain things cannot be done, he should first make himself familiar with Parliamentary practice. What is Parliamentary practice? The Budget is brought before the House and passed and the same applies to Loan Estimates. I cannot recall a single syllable from the other side of the House, or indeed this side, to the effect that the Government was spending too much money. The fact is that the whole of the resources available to the Government were spent according to the Budget and the Loan Estimates which were placed before Parliament last year. Not only is it impossible or impracticable, but it would be improper for the Government to spend money in any other direction than that agreed to by Parliament. Some few weeks ago the Minister for Social Services said, at Mount Gambier, that the Government has no money of its own. Apparently it is necessary to make the position clear. The only funds the Government possesses are those which come from the pockets of the taxpayers, either directly or indirectly. Therefore there should be an attempt to understand the principles and problems of parliamentary government.

That brings me to one of the great evils in our political system—uniform taxation. For purposes of exposing what might in literary terms be regarded as the anatomy of villainy I have over-simplified the processes which are involved in budgeting and in claiming reimbursements from the Commonwealth in connection with income tax. First of all we must assume that there is a pressure group—it may be employers, trade unions, educational institutions, or even the honourable member for Prospect—which has a demand it wants satisfied. If that pressure group or the honourable member can impress on the Government the urgency of the need the State adds that commitment to its Budget, and incorporates it in the Estimates presented to Parliament. Next, the State makes a claim on the Commonwealth, either for an additional grant by way of reimbursement of uniform tax collection, or for an additional grant on the basis of need from the Commonwealth Grants Commission. Then the Commonwealth has two alternatives—to make

some economy to which some other pressure group will not readily agree, or increase taxation. Neither of these may be desirable economically or politically possible without repercussions. We will assume that having agreed to this demand for increased expenditure the Commonwealth increases taxation. It then increases the State's reimbursement and this allows the State to undertake the project which will for the moment satisfy the local pressure, whether it be from an employer group, a trade union, or the honourable member for Prospect. The State is regarded as the benevolent authority because it has recognized the claim of the pressure group. The Commonwealth has accepted the odium and criticism of increasing taxation, even although the money may be needed for a desirable purpose. If the State had the responsibility of raising revenue for some so-called important projects they may not appear to be so desirable or look so attractive and urgent if it meant the direct imposition of 3d. in the pound on income tax. This, in simple form, is the story of this thing which undermines political responsibility, and it could give rise to bad government in the State. I sincerely hope that before the end of the current year a formula will be evolved under which it will be possible, with equity, for the State to resume its taxing powers. I think that company taxation is not a material element in arriving at a formula now and can be overlooked. It is most desirable in the interests of good government, sound finance, and high principles in public affairs that we bring close to the people the responsibility of meeting the expense of items which they regard as urgent and necessary.

I now want to refer to the Landlord and Tenant legislation. It would seem that the Government is not yet convinced that the legislation can be abolished and I am inclined to that view, but I am not satisfied that we are moving quickly enough towards the end of the legislation. There is a need to overhaul and liberalize it, and to remove some of the harsh provisions against landlords, who, as I have said on previous occasions, have made a very great contribution to the stability of our post-war economy. There is a view gaining ground, and I do not say that I necessarily subscribe to it, that if rent subsidies are to be the order of the day they should be met from general revenue, rather than be saddled on to one class—landlords. When the legislation comes before Parliament this year I would like to have from the Treasurer a clear statement of

what it has achieved. I would like a summing-up of the advantages claimed for a rigid adherence to the provisions of the measure, and the balance struck between economic gains and losses.

Unfortunately the hardships of the landlord on one side and the advantages to tenants on the other cannot be measured in money, nevertheless the contribution by the landlords is very real. There are two ways in which it seems to me that relaxation can be given without causing any hardship to tenants and which would be a move towards the ultimate abolition of rent fixing. I suggest that any privately owned house which has not been let prior to a given date, whether it be a newly built house or an old one, should not be subject to rent control. This would not disturb existing tenancies. I recognize that in some instances tenants have bargaining powers inferior to those of landlords, but my other suggestion is that where the tenant makes an offer to the landlord for a lease on terms which are mutually satisfactory, the agreement should stand and not be overridden by the Landlord and Tenant legislation. In other words, we should adopt for houses the provisions which already exist for business premises.

I hope the legislation will be reviewed thoroughly before we are asked to renew it, and that consideration will be given to my suggestion. Private building for letting has always been an integral part of our economic structure. This will not continue unless there is a reasonable return on the outlay. Rent fixing is a bar to the resumption of private building for rent. The relaxation in the direction suggested would stimulate more building for letting. It is desirable that the Premier should give the House a report on Housing Trust policy. We have had concise reports of trust activities, but they are in the nature of history, and I would like the Treasurer to outline what is trust policy. He has said that emergency housing is not to be continued, and for that reason we should have before us a complete analysis of trust policy. Are we to continue to import prefabricated houses? Is the trust to continue building for rent as well as for sale?

In the assessing of rents there is a real ground for complaint, not only in the actual amount of rent permitted to private landlords, but in the so-called principles which are adopted. The practice is to fix a rent which has some relation to values or the level of rentals in 1939, plus an allowance for increases in rates and taxes and costs of

repairs. If this is a proper principle then the practice of the Succession Duties Department and the Stamp Duties Department is wrong. These departments make their own valuations as at the date the duty is to be assessed. The trust will assess a rent only after taking into account the 1939 level, plus increases in rates, taxes and costs of repairs. When a house is the subject of a gift by a legacy, the value for stamp duty and succession duty purposes is the value of the house today, irrespective of the value in 1939. If it is right for the trust to take a retrospective value, it is right for the two departments to do so. If it is not proper for the departments to do that, then the converse position should apply.

I want now to refer to the taxability of long service pay, which may be given to a civil servant prior to his actual retirement. I have had some correspondence with the Premier on the subject, and as cases dealing with the matter are before the Income Tax Board of Review, and are virtually sub judice, I will say no more, except that I remind the Premier that in our correspondence it was suggested that the matter should be considered when amendments are made to the Public Service Act.

I have said in this House before that I feel that at times the economic consequences of policy or legislation are not sufficiently weighed. A closer examination from that point of view is desirable. I instance potato control. I would have thought that a thorough analysis from an economic point of view would have avoided many of the errors into which the Potato Board appears to have fallen over the last year or so. The House must have been alarmed at the reply the Treasurer gave to Mr. Dunnage recently when he said that huge quantities of food are held in store in the United States because they cannot be sold. The economic situation in our primary and secondary industries is a constant challenge to all Australians and to all the elements making up the cost of production, namely labor, capital and organizing ability. We must see that we are not costing ourselves out of world markets. Our prices cannot be competitive if our production is limited by quotas, boards, and dargs and other artificial devices. I remind the member for Norwood that in spite of controls, both past and present world trade has been carried on in a competitive spirit.

Steps must be taken to bring the people closer to the problems of government, and

people should be expected to take a more active share in solving these problems, therefore I emphatically disagree with the member for Prospect who apparently does not like to see worthy public spirited citizens helping in the administration of Government. I hope that after he has read one or two of my remarks in this speech he will be more familiar with the method by which ideas are translated into fact and how public moneys are used pursuant to the wishes of the people as expressed through this House. Although it is the function and responsibility of members to raise matters of domestic importance for consideration here, this should not blind members to the overall welfare of the State of which we are so proud and which owes so much to the Government and particularly to its present leader. I support the motion.

Mr. JOHN CLARK (Gawler)—Before commenting on some of the remarks made in His Excellency's speech I join with other members in a few brief remarks on the Coronation. All members will most heartily endorse what has been said on this subject. Proof has been made manifest throughout the English-speaking world of the love, loyalty and devotion which is extended, now even more than in previous days, to Her Majesty. The monarchy is the bond holding together peoples of many colours and at present it is stronger than it has ever been due to the increasingly Christian character and example of our recent rulers. There was a time when we could not look so happily on the character and indeed the behaviour of some members of the Royal Family, but that was a long time ago. Kingship has changed enormously during the past few hundred years. In olden times a strong element of fear existed with regard to our sovereign. If a person were sent for by the King he either went in great fear and trepidation, hid, or left the country. Today all fear is gone and we love and honour those who rule.

This has been called a new Elizabethan age, but as times are so different today from those in which Elizabeth I. ruled that it is a misnomer. The characters of Elizabeth I. and Elizabeth II. are so vastly different that this must of necessity be so. We have only to look at the difference in their backgrounds and unbringings to see at once that there can be no real similarity between the two sovereigns. Elizabeth I. had no family life at all; her mother was beheaded whilst still a young woman. Elizabeth was illegitimate one year and, by the decree of her father, the King,

legitimate the next. She was reared in a time of complete religious intolerance, and at the time of her coming to the throne England was a country of very small importance. Elizabeth I. was a typical Tudor despot who, by using an entirely new mixture of Royal power and feminine instinct fought England's enemies and made England a really great nation.

Elizabeth II. provides a distinct contrast. She has had a happy family life with her parents and more recently with her husband and children. Her character has been shaped by good Christian influences. Today, in contrast to the times of Elizabeth I., religious intolerance, at least on the part of British rulers, has vanished. England is gradually regaining her true greatness that had been sapped by her being forced to bear the brunt of two horrible wars. Britain is ruled by the people through the Queen and Parliament, and we have every reason to say that this will be a greater reign than that of Elizabeth I. if our prayers for lasting peace are granted. Today the component parts of the British world are achieving an ever-increasing measure of independence, yet each remain an integral part of a democratic monarchy which once more we trust will be strengthened by the reign of a woman. As members of one of her Parliaments we offer our loyalty to the Queen and await with pleasant anticipation the coming royal visit. We offer humble thanks for the end of the Korean struggle and trust that the peace will prove real and lasting. We welcome Her Majesty's representative, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert George, to this State. We in South Australia have been fortunate in having a long line of excellent Governors. I need not comment further on this for other members have known former Governors more closely than I have.

As a nearly new member I welcome those members who have recently come into the House. I refer to members on both sides, all of whom have shown by their maiden speeches that they have more than average ability and energy even if in some cases it be misdirected energy. I hope they will have a happy career here and that some of them—and I do not think I need name them—will have a long career. If I may be so bold, I suggest to new members on this side that they be not discouraged by evasive answers to their questions or by the frequent feeling of kicking against a particularly solid brick wall.

I was struck by the expression "Atomic Tom" used by the member for Mitcham when

referring to the Premier. I am happy to say that already we have received evidence from our new members on this side that they are prepared to attack and criticize "Atomic Tom" and his merry men. I do not think they are particularly merry today, and I remind them that the atom has been split. Scientists say that a certain danger arises when the atom is split and that the splitting of the atom will benefit the world. I suggest we have only to think of the benefits to this State to be derived from the splitting of the mighty "Atomic Tom" to be given an incentive to continue our fight.

It was most disappointing and striking to find that His Excellency's speech contains no reference to electoral reform. Many South Australians—not all of them Labor supporters—think some nice gesture of political honesty and goodwill could be made to honour the Coronation year, but apparently that is too much to ask. The Government, snugly encased in its armour of self satisfaction, as was evidenced so strongly by the member for Mitcham in his speech, cannot feel any blows from outside that armour. During my travels through my district I have attempted to conduct what one might call a personal Gallup poll. I am particularly interested in electoral reform and I attempted to get the views of people in my district. A big percentage are Labor supporters and of course they favour electoral reform. I also spoke to people who are commonly known as "floaters" and found that a great percentage of these also favour some type of electoral reform. I also approached a number of people who I know are normally Government supporters and was surprised to find that a large proportion consider that some breadth of equality should be introduced into our State electoral system. I believe that the overall majority of Labor voters in the last State elections should put the Government under an obligation to "democratize" our electoral system.

During the last few weeks many of us have spent much time, and I do not like to think it was wasted, listening to interrupted broadcasts of the Test matches. Those who love the game believe it is a sporting and democratic game, although some would like to see the present rules altered in minor details. I should like you to imagine a Test match being played under South Australian electoral rules, or "Playford" rules, if you will. I should say that it would go something like this—the Government bats all the time and with a bat a foot wide and with only one stump to bowl

at; the rules would prevent the umpire from giving the Government out except under very extraordinary circumstances.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—It has a wonderful score.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—That is because of the rules. It is not hard to score when the umpire is not in a position to give you out. Often the Government is caught out and completely stumped, and yet it still remains at the wicket. Thank goodness it can still be run out. This has been proved in the districts of Prospect, Norwood, and Victoria.

Mr. Dunks—That is not much of an argument in criticizing a gerrymander.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I could speak in the same strain concerning our national game of football, but am afraid that the umpire's whistle would be blown against me, so I leave it to members' imagination. I appeal to the Government to make the game even, with rules the same for both sides, at least the same chances for both sides, and bring back democracy to our State and give the people their fair share in picking the team which is to govern.

I call members' attention to paragraph 4 of the Governor's Speech in which he said, "Our developmental works were carried on steadily despite the reduction in Loan funds." Obviously, more Loan funds are required for grandiose works announced at election time, some of which never get past the blue print stage, or even that far. We must ask ourselves why there is this shortage of Loan funds and whose fault it is. Developmental works have been slowed down, hindered, or stopped. In paragraph 5 of the Governor's Speech I was delighted to read, "Good rainfall and favourable weather prevailed in almost every part of the State and the season was one of the best in history."

Mr. Dunks—Does the Premier claim credit for that?

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I was about to say that the Government is not taking credit for this. It is good to see that our average wheat yield was higher, but I should like to strike a note of warning and quote what Dr. A. R. Callaghan, the Director of Agriculture, said in the Advertiser of July 21:—

Although the phenomenal yield last year was largely due to a particularly good season, it had underlying causes of particular agricultural significance. If it had not been for the compensating factor of increasing yield per acre the decline in wheat acreage might have had more disastrous consequences than it has had so far. The present acreage based on earlier

average yields would have left the State precariously placed. Even now a succession of bad seasons might well lead to serious local shortages.

This is a plain warning for the future from one who knows. Indeed it is his job to know. Such remarks have been made often by Mr. O'Halloran, Leader of the Opposition. I have heard him warn members of the possibility of our good years and good harvests coming to an end, and that we were not altogether prepared for such a position. Mention has been made of the great harvest. The northern part of my district comes into the lower Barossa Valley, one of the best districts in the State, and I am reminded of the position of a particular friend who is a vigneron and produces a fine assortment of wines. He, and others who have spoken to me, are greatly concerned about the English import duty imposed upon Australian wines. It would be an enormous benefit to the industry if that duty were reduced. I know there are other reasons why the industry is suffering, but that is one of the most important.

Mr. Fred Walsh—It is bad for Australia to export inferior wines.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I heartily agree. Another paragraph in the Governor's Speech mentions the big number of fat lambs that were slaughtered for export last season, but I regret that because of seasonal conditions there will not be such a large quota this year. Last year primary producers experienced great difficulty in having all their fat lambs slaughtered. It would be better for the men on the slaughtering chains as well as for lamb producers if it were possible to arrive at an estimate of the number of fat lambs that could be expected to come forward for slaughter, although I know that would not be easy to obtain. Possibly something could be done through the stock and station agents, or perhaps there could be some form of census.

Paragraph 6 of the Governor's Speech referred to the livestock branch of the Department of Agriculture. I compliment that branch on the excellent services it is rendering. He said that this department now provides a complete service in animal husbandry. I was brought up on a farm and know a little about stock, although I am not a stock owner. Many of my friends and constituents have spoken to me and highly praised the services. I commend the great work of an educational and social nature being performed through the State by agricultural bureaux. I want now to refer to rural clubs, which I prefer

to term junior agricultural bureaux. For the information of members I give the five guide posts of the clubs. Their aims are admirable and are worthy of all the publicity that can be given them. They are:—

1. To create love of the country and country life.

2. To show the importance of rural industry and create an active interest in its affairs.

3. To encourage self-education for the greater fulfilment of life and the proper enjoyment of leisure.

4. To make known the benefits to health and character of good living.

5. To bring young people together and demonstrate the advantages of social fellowship and exchange of ideas.

They are most commendable ideals. Something along similar lines is adopted in connection with agricultural bureaux. They have discussion groups, talks and lectures by experts, and some not so expert—I have given some myself. They are a training ground not only for young and old farmers in agricultural work, but for public speaking and becoming worth-while citizens. In these branches we see democracy in its truest form. Personally I have very much enjoyed the visits I have paid to agricultural bureau meetings and socials. I support the organization very much indeed.

I now want to mention railways. I regret the death of Mr. Chapman, the Railways Commissioner, as do all members who came in contact with him. Praise from me is unnecessary. He did much good work, and I personally found him always pleased to advise and help wherever he could. I have some criticism of the railways, although I realize that it is a great and difficult job. Some districts do not appear to be receiving fair treatment when compared with others. Often, when I have time, I stand on the Gawler railway station and see the "Flier" going through Gawler to towns further north with few passengers aboard. I also see trains coming to Gawler and places *en route* with an enormous number of "sardines" packed into all the available space. It has been suggested to me, and I wonder whether it is possible that the Parliamentary representatives of some of the districts, where it is hard to get proper train services, are of the wrong political complexion. I am reluctant to believe it, but some of my constituents do. If I have the wrong political complexion for my district and cannot get anything because I am a member of a certain political Party then the best thing for the district is to get rid of me.

Mr. Dunks—It has not happened in regard to housing.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I do not suggest that it has, and I am hoping to receive much more for my district, because it is needed. The following is an extract from a letter I wrote to the Minister of Railways regarding the difficulties of the town of Wasleys:—

Many of my constituents in the Wasleys district have been in touch with me regarding the possibility of an earlier train in the morning from that town. At present passengers from Wasleys reach Adelaide at approximately 10.20. They claim that many of the residents of that town are forced to live away from home all the week because they are employed at Gawler, Adelaide and other places *en route*. Young people who on leaving school would be better off under parental care are in a similar position. Very little employment is obtainable in Wasleys, and the town is suffering on that account. Would you investigate the possibility of a rail car running from Wasleys to connect with one of the earlier trains from Gawler to Adelaide?

I have investigated the claim and I find that it can be entirely substantiated because a big percentage of the population of Wasleys is at home only during the week-end. With his usual courtesy, and I mean it, the Minister did make an investigation and the bulk of his reply to me referred to the report he received from the Acting Railways Commissioner, but a part of the letter stated:—

The first passenger train from Wasleys to Adelaide, Mondays to Saturdays, departs that station at 9.16 a.m. On Mondays the train referred to originates from Peterborough departing at 4.45 a.m. On other days, Tuesdays to Saturdays, this train originates at Burra, and departs that station at 6.55 a.m. and arrives at Adelaide at 10.20 a.m. If a workmen's train were required, it would be necessary to leave Wasleys at approximately 5.50 a.m. in order to reach Adelaide at 7.33 a.m. or thereabouts, whereas to arrive in Adelaide at, say 8.30 a.m., the departure time would be about 6.55 a.m. These timings would so seriously affect passengers from as far as Peterborough on Mondays, and on other days as far as Burra, that it will be seen it would be impracticable to introduce the required service other than by an independent train. As Riverton is the nearest station with turning facilities for a rail car, it would be necessary to run a new service between Adelaide and Riverton, involving 126 miles per diem, and it is obvious that this area is now sufficiently well catered for on the basis of a country service, and the introduction of an inter-country industrial train could not be justified. Passengers from Wasleys, which is 6½ miles distant from Roseworthy, should make their own transport to Roseworthy, from which junction station there are trains off the Morgan line departing for Adelaide at 6.11 a.m. and arriving Adelaide at 7.33 a.m., and at 7.55 a.m., arriving Adelaide at 8.45.

The facts stated are entirely correct, but what was the reaction of the people at Wasleys when they found they had to find their own means of transport for a distance of 6½ miles? Years ago that would not have been far, but in these days it is a fair step, especially at 6 o'clock in the morning. The Wasleys people ask:—

Is there a workmen's train on the Kapunda line? Is there a workmen's train on the Angaston line? Are these people further from Adelaide than Wasleys? Are they expected to find their own transport to catch a train regularly 6½ miles away and at 6.11 or 7.33 in the morning? Why the discrimination? Don't all country districts get these much vaunted amenities which are supposed to go to the country?

I know the position is awkward and I sympathize with the Minister. He has to handle a difficult problem. I have been wondering whether in places like this, where there are no turn round facilities, it would be possible to use Budd cars. They can travel either way and as far as I know do not need turning facilities. It is something which is worthy of consideration, but there may be technical difficulties in the way. It was a pleasure for me to attend the opening ceremonies of the broad gauge railway extension to Mount Gambier, but it brought unhappy thoughts of what was wanted nearer home. I for one do not begrudge what Mount Gambier has got after many years of trying, but it made me realize how difficult it is to run the railways. I could find no mention in the Governor's Speech of the electrification of railways. I wonder whether this is perhaps another effect of the famous Menzies-Fadden generosity.

Paragraph 10 of the Opening Speech referred to water supplies, and it was said that "the available money and materials have been used to the best advantage." No matter how true that is, it is difficult for people wanting better supplies of water to believe it. Many people are worrying about household supplies and the water needed for increased stock, which have been obtained for the good of the country. Water is needed and the summer months are not far away. I thank the Minister for the consideration he gave me in certain matters of water shortage, but there are one or two instances where I cannot thank him. Gawler, like Port Pirie, has suburbs, and Willaston is one of them. The Minister had an investigation made into the position of the water supply in Jane Street, Willaston, and he found the pressure to be much below the capacity. He said that because of shortage of money no work could be done. I have tried for a long time to get something done in regard to Yatta Creek.

Long continued promises have been made, but there is still no water. I was amazed to hear the Minister in reply to a question by Mr. Jennings say he does not make promises. I agree that it is hard at times to make a promise, but if one is made it is as well to admit it. In the same paragraph are the words "preparatory work for the South Para reservoir has continued." This is a wonderful scheme to impound 10,000,000,000 gall. of water and will obviously benefit the State. It will cost at least £3,000,000. What a tragedy it is that Loan grant shortages have slowed this most important work.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Costs have gone up and not the Loan money come down.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I suggest it cuts both ways. Members are possibly beginning to weary of my referring to the sewerage problem in Gawler. I cannot find much information about sewerage in His Excellency's speech. All country districts need sewerage as do some city areas but in Gawler it is a necessity. Industries are being kept away from the town because when inquiries are made about the possibility of establishing industries it is ascertained that there is no way of getting rid of effluent and industrial rubbish. Lack of sewerage is robbing the town of its birthright. It presents difficulties for home builders and for the local council which desires a better system than the present antediluvian one. The council is endeavouring to ensure that all new houses make provision for septic tanks but some people cannot afford them. The formation of the land and the type of soil sometimes makes it impracticable to put down septic tanks. Lack of proper sewerage is retarding the future of one of the oldest and most important districts in the State. For years promises and half promises have been made and continually we hear the statement, "First things must come first," but it is hard for people on the spot, badly needing something, to be convinced that what they want is not one of the first things. Historical figures are often credited with saying that if they got something they would die happy and I feel similarly about the provision of sewerage at Gawler.

The first paragraph of section 11 of His Excellency's speech contains the words "Despite the limitation of Loan funds the Government has steadily pursued its policy." On his return from England the Treasurer is reported in the *News* of July 20 as saying he was extremely satisfied with the State's Loan allocation. He was away when His Excellency opened Parliament but I remember the Acting

Premier saying something similar after the Loan Council meeting. This is the recurring theme song of the Government and appears several times in the Speech. Whose fault is it that there is a limitation of Loan funds? I suggest it is caused by the blind following of an unworthy Federal Government. Surely the test of a good Federal Treasurer is whether the people have enough confidence in him and his Party to fill his loans at a low interest rate. The late Mr. Chifley in eight years raised £15,000,000,000 at interest rates of 3 to 3½ per cent, including £200,000,000 in one year when the national income was £12,000,000,000. Sir Arthur Fadden raised only £52,000,000 last year and would not have obtained that except for the exorbitant interest rate of 4½ per cent. In his three years of office there have been horror budgets and we are now anticipating what some will call a bribery budget. With a national income of £9,000,000,000 in that time he was able to raise only £228,000,000 in loans. Let us hear no more complaints of works held up through Loan cuts. The Government has only itself to blame and should accept the responsibility. It has constantly supported this so-called Federal Government through thick and thin. What a pity the whole State must suffer for this misguided allegiance.

In paragraph 12 there is some mention of electricity. I commend the courteous and helpful officers of the Electricity Trust. Under Government control the trust is attempting to do a grand job for the State but it could do all it desired in the country areas if not limited by finance. I proposed several group extensions to the trust but in some cases the surcharge necessary has been as high as 184 per cent which makes it uneconomic for the trust and for the people who need electricity. Some members will remember the Treasurer's words in his second reading speech on the second edition of the Electricity Trust Bill in 1946:—

We are trying to provide for country people some of the amenities which are enjoyed by the city people and which country people cannot get unless the Government takes an active stand to assist in securing them.

I entirely agree with him, but he forgot to add the words, "at a price." I make a most urgent plea for more cheap money to be made available to offset the cost to country people of essential electricity extensions. Perhaps a subsidy could be made to decrease the surcharge. A subsidy on transformers would be of great assistance and would make a substantial difference to the cost of the undertakings. Housing Trust officers have told me that much of the expense is caused by the

high cost of transformers. The Governor's Speech referred to war service land settlement schemes, and I highly commend the Kangaroo Island scheme. With other members I had the pleasure of inspecting this project, which is a credit to the officers responsible and to the men toiling there. They are typical of South Australian workmen generally. Paragraph 17 of the Speech mentioned the assistance given by the Government to councils to undertake road works. I have asked questions of the Minister of Local Government about this matter and have had conversations with him, but he has not convinced me. However, I thank the Government for the assistance it has given, but it is just a spit on a hot brick. I cannot agree with the Minister's recent statement about councils not facing up to their responsibilities. Perhaps his colleagues do not agree with him either. With rising costs and wages, councils have unfairly heavy commitments to meet in financing fire brigade and hospital services in the country. I am not condemning those services, but the councils are asked to subscribe too much towards their upkeep. A bigger percentage of the cost should be met by the State Government. At present only bits and pieces of work can be done by councils, which cannot undertake any long-range programme. The result is that the bits and pieces done in one year are the bits and pieces to be done again in the next. The number of these small jobs rise until there is practically nothing else done. The State Government is treating the councils in the same way as the Federal Government now in office is treating the States.

I commend the compulsory X-ray scheme. This is one of the best things ever introduced in this State. If symptoms of disease are discovered early serious consequences can often be avoided. Paragraph 20 of the Governor's Speech refers to housing. I am glad the programme is progressing, though the Housing Trust regrets houses cannot be built at a greater rate. I, too, regret that, for there is still a large unfulfilled demand in my district, and in other places also. I thank the Premier for giving to the House details of the recent increases in the rents of trust homes, but I am still not happy about that. The Governor's Speech stated:—

In order to avoid the necessity for increasing the rents of trust houses by reason of the recent rise in interest rates, the trust will, during the coming financial year, carry out its rental housing programme under the Commonwealth and State housing agreement.

However, only a few weeks later there was an increase in rents. Naturally, trust tenants



find it hard to reconcile this with the statements of the Government through His Excellency's Speech, particularly in view of letters from the trust to householders notifying them of the increases. One letter from the trust stated:—

The cost of erecting a house has increased very rapidly in recent years, and in addition the amount which the trust must pay in interest on all the capital it invests in erecting rental houses has also increased steeply. I am not criticizing the Housing Trust officers, who have done their best at all times to help me and other members in the cause of constituents, but I am criticizing the discrepancy between the announced policy and actual fact. Undoubtedly, there is some explanation of it, but it is hard to make people understand. One of the most welcome statements in the Governor's Speech was that two additional Ministers would be appointed. I say, "Three hearty cheers!" The Opposition has been advocating the appointment of additional Ministers for years. We have believed it impossible for Ministers to satisfactorily carry out their duties when they have multifarious portfolios assigned to them. It is not fair to expect them to administer so many departments. We wonder whether there will be a Minister of Transport, but we hope so. We await with interest the Government's steps about workmen's compensation. We on this side know what is required, and we shall be happy to hear also something about long service leave for employees in industry.

I have deliberately left the topic of education until last. I have refrained previously from saying much on this subject because I felt it was still too close to me as I was a schoolteacher before being elected to Parliament. However, the member for Torrens referred to legal matters in his maiden speech, though I do not criticize him for it. I do not claim a special knowledge of education, but I have had experience in all kinds of primary schools, from small outback ones to very large ones, over the last 17 or 18 years. I have also been a member of high school councils for many years, and I still have many intimate friends in the rank and file and among the highly-placed officers of the Education Department. I believe I would be lacking in my duty if I did not make more than passing reference to the statement contained in paragraph 15 of the Governor's Speech, namely, "The huge task arising from our rapidly increasing population." I have every admiration for the work being performed by the teachers and administrative officers of the department. They are doing an excellent job under grave

difficulties. They carry out their hard work conscientiously; they do not last long if they are not conscientious. After all when you have little children in your care you become conscientious in trying to get the best from them. In spite of some peculiar letters which recently appeared in our press the standard of education in this State is high. In the past South Australia has been noted for its educational facilities and I have found that the educational standard of children coming from other States into my class has not been up to that of my scholars; but the present high standard cannot possibly continue if, as seems likely, conditions in the teaching profession worsen. The lot of pupils and teachers could be so much better, and things should be done which would be of inestimable value to the State. The Education Department faces a huge task. An increasing population has resulted in the swelling of the already bursting walls of some of our schools. The chief reason for the difficulties of the department is that not enough money is being allocated for education. Earlier this session in reply to a friendly interjection by the member for Chaffey I suggested that the amount allocated for education should be double, and I was not joking. I do not criticize the Minister of Education, except as a member of a Government that has denied these rights to our children, and I believe he would be happy to introduce the reforms I suggest if the money were available.

To give members some ideas on the aims of an education system I quote the speech made by Dr. Beatrice Ensor at a New Education Fellowship Conference in Adelaide some years ago. The following remarks apply more forcibly than ever today:—

A child is born into the world with infinite possibilities. Ours is the task of developing and encouraging those tendencies which make the kind of adult who will co-operate in bringing about this new social order (she was speaking about hopes for world peace). To do this we must envisage the primary function of education as opportunity for the growth of the individual, and the developing in him of qualities of character. The first essential is a common philosophy of education; we must agree in principle what we are educating for. The second essential is to educate public opinion to realize the importance of education. We must be prepared to spend more money. Australia spends on education too little per head of population. Money can always be found for industrial development, for research, for defence, and yet it is on the quality of the human material of the country that its future depends. The prestige of teachers must be as high as that of other professions law, medicine, church or business. They must be as well paid so as to attract to the teaching profession the best type of men and women.

The following is an extract from a statement by Sir Cyril Norwood, President of St. John's College, Oxford:—

Democracy is a noble and difficult ideal, in its perfection if you like, unattainable like the Christian ideal. The only power that can make it what it is capable of being is education in the full sense of the term, that education of body mind and spirit, that can make democracy safe for the world. We must seek qualities which are the reverse of those sought in the economic spheres in that they are increased by being shared. The more you have of them, the more there is for everybody else.

In case members think that these ideas are only those of idealists I quote General Jan Christian Smuts:—

If I were a dictator I would lay down as a programme of principle for education, the building up of individual personality, the encouragement of imagination, not of memory, the feeding of young mind with interests, ideals and the joy of life: the cultivating of a love of truth, a broad outlook and objectiveness, a thorough grounding in fundamentals.

These aims can be carried out only by one with a natural gift and the full comprehensive training for teaching. I have read these quotations to emphasize the greatness of the task of educators. I wish to compare the training of teachers in this State with that in other States and with training in other trades and professions which boys and girls may enter on leaving school. Every thinking person is concerned with the heavy increase in school population and the consequent demand for more teachers and schools. This demand has grown in other States, but there a more realistic attempt has been made to cope with the position. I sympathize with the Government of this State in its efforts, but I sympathize more with our boys and girls and with those who must fit them for life. It appears to me that no serious attempt has been made to attack the root of the matter by making more money available for education. Let me explain why we are having the gravest difficulty in

obtaining any where near enough recruits to the teaching professions for full training through the Teachers' College. Strangely enough, other States, particularly New South Wales and Western Australia can get more than they require. Why? Because they have better conditions, are paid more money, and have greater prospects of advancement in the service. In most other States young people are offered far better inducements to enter the service and train. They have a better allowance while training as teachers at the Teachers' College and very much better chances of promotion when they gain their teachers certificate. In June, 1950, in South Australia, a substantial increase was made in student teachers' allowances (I trained for £60 a year, but other times, other customs), bringing the students to the princely allowance of half the basic wages. Although there have been steep basic wage rises since then, they have been kindly granted by a benevolent Government only another £20 per annum. If they received half the basic wage today, they would get £5 15s. 6d. per week. Actually they get £3 13s. a week. Let's make a fair comparison. In Western Australia a first year student, living at home gets £266 per year. All other unmarried students get £349 a year irrespective of age. In South Australia the best allowance is £210 per annum, irrespective of age, plus an away from home allowance. In Victoria a student living at home gets £307 per year for the first year, increasing for the third and fourth year.

Another comparison is well worth making as a reason for the dearth of new students wishing to be admitted to the Teachers' College—a fair comparison too. Let us compare what is paid to third division Commonwealth Public Service cadets with a leaving certificate and much the same academic qualifications as a first year Teachers' College student. They are also doing practically a full-time course at the university. These are the figures:—

Student teacher.		Commonwealth Service cadet.	
Per annum.		Per annum.	
£		£	
At 18 . . . . .	190	Under 18 . . . . .	366
At 19 . . . . .	210	At 18 . . . . .	408
At 20 . . . . .	Still 210	At 19 . . . . .	492
	their maximum.	At 20 . . . . .	552
	(Plus a living-away-from-home allowance.)		
At 21 . . . . .	Still 210	At 21 . . . . .	(Still a student doing similar studies as a student teacher but receiving £704 per annum.)
	their maximum.		
	(Plus a living-away-from-home allowance.)		

This is but one of the reasons why we are not getting young people to do the full training course to be teachers. I would like to make a comparison with one trade, say, the metal trade, and in explanation of my figures may I say that the majority of young men entering upon apprenticeship to a metal trade serve a term of five years. In special cases, by mutual consent, it may be four years, and so for the sake of easier comparison I will give the corresponding amounts received weekly by these trade apprentices over that term and by trainee teachers. They are as follows:—

	Apprentice. (Weekly.)	Student Teacher. (Per annum.)
	£ s. d.	£
First year . . . .	3 17 6	*190
Second year . . . .	6 3 0	210
Third year . . . .	9 9 0	210
Fourth year . . . .	11 14 0	210

\* Which is £3 13s. a week.

They are but a few of the reasons why we are not getting young teachers and there are others. In the older days a poor man's son who happened to be reasonably bright became a teacher because his father could not afford to put him through university and so we find many poor men's sons as teachers—and a very good thing it was. Now, with the pleasing Commonwealth grants, which I applaud, they can enter the university to do other professional courses offering better rewards later. This is all to the good, but the training of teachers must be made just as remunerative for otherwise the cream will be lost and we must keep a percentage of the cream for the education of our children and young people. I suggest quite sincerely that this position could be rectified by placing the allowance of Teachers College students under the Teachers' Salaries Board. We would then do away with the necessity of quick training courses, some as low as three months only, with nothing required but some secondary education. That cannot be completely effective. We would then not have to engage so many temporary teachers. This would involve an amendment to the Act, or alternatively, I think, the Minister could refer the matter to the Salaries Board for fixation of salary. In 1951 in our 50 largest schools there were 120 temporary untrained assistants. In 1953 there are 234. To-day out of 1,047 teachers, men and women, there are 508 temporary teachers, either trained or untrained. Of all teachers who came back, 48.5 per cent are temporary. In

1951 women on the temporary staff comprised 46.4 per cent of all women teachers, and of these 34.7 per cent were temporary uncertificated assistants. Many are former teachers and are doing a good job, but some have distractions which take away their value as teachers.

At the other end of the scale we come to what could be commonly called the "all sorts," who among the regular teachers are known as the "pressure cookers." Some of them have a natural ability for the job. There are also New Australians, some of whom are very keen, but suffer because of language difficulties. Some New Australians have proved excellent teachers. Among them, I understand, is a Russian. Those who are called "pressure cookers" are given the name because they have been trained in only a few months, and therefore could not be expected to do a really good job. I am not condemning all of them. Some have an innate gift for teaching and have done very well. These teachers were supposed to be a temporary expedient, but their numbers are growing like a snowball. One reason we have not more qualified teachers is that the inducements to enter the Teachers' College are so poor. No other Australian Education Department has recourse to such a short training period with such low qualifications, and yet peculiarly enough the certificate for fully qualified teachers is the highest in Australia. So, we have the two extremes—the highest trained teachers in Australia and at the other end the lowest trained. The present method, although it may mean a saving of much money to the Government, is at a high cost in other respects to the people. It means a lowering of the standards of the teaching profession, and, more important, a lowering of the standard of the pupils leaving school. Also, it means an obvious unfair burden on the heads of schools and their permanent assistants. Teachers generally are anxious to keep the standards up, and in part they have succeeded, but they are becoming more and more worried and finding the job more and more difficult. We cannot afford to permit this gradual lowering of standards, as education is all important to the future of our State. I suggest that the Government is too materialistic, and I ask it to look below the surface. The remedy is more money. If the Government cannot afford it, I suggest that it should seek special education grants from the Federal Government, although I should think this would be a forlorn hope. I know that the Commonwealth Government

has no constitutional obligations as to education, but the absence of a constitutional obligation is surely not tantamount to the absence of a moral obligation. I should like to quote what Mr. Menzies said in the Commonwealth Parliament in 1945, as follows:—

There is no legal reason why the Commonwealth should not come to the rescue of the States. The Commonwealth could make available substantial sums in aid of educational reform and development.

So, there is a ray of hope. If our State Government cannot or will not help education, perhaps the Federal Government will. Also, we may have a new Federal Government soon. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.48 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 29, at 2 p.m.